

Japanese Approaches to Landslides -Sarukuyoji Landslide-K. OKUNISHI^{1*} and M.I. Constantin²¹Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University²Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy

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Landslides are natural hazards, which constitute a threat to human life and their countermeasures are dependent on economical and technical conditions. In this context, the geomorphologic approaches to landslides are different in different countries and regions. Although global standards for the landslide studies are needed in future, regionality in the approaches is also important as far as the social conditions differ. This paper reviews the characteristics of geomorphological and other approaches so far taken in Japan and discusses their relevance to physiographic and sociological conditions of Japan, with particular reference to the Sarukuyoji Landslide in Niigata Prefecture. Among a large variety of landslide phenomena, extensive creepy movement of soil mass under particular geological conditions are called in Japan as "jisuberi", which is equivalent to the English word "landslide", and Sarukuyoji Landslide is a typical "jisuberi". Many types of investigation related to the mechanics of landslide, including the geomorphological control to landslides, have been tried there, wherefrom the fundamental policy of the countermeasure has been derived, representing typical Japanese approach to landslides.

Key Words: landslide, Japanese approach, investigation, countermeasure

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Contribution to the romanian geomorphic study of the environmentM. DINU¹ and A. CIOACA²¹Romanian-American University²Spiru Haret University

The major environmental factor, immediately perceived, is obviously the relief. The diversity of its forms is suggestive of both its temporal build-up under the action of other factors and of its modelling by present-day geomorphic processes. Relief studies, therefore, ought to depict it as a basic environmental component – the groundwork of all the other elements, and point out the areas favourable to human activity. At the same time, any approach should highlight on the dangers of the inadequate placement of buildings, roads, electrical networks, underground pipes and cables, crops etc. Geomorphic studies must indicate the threshold beyond which human action can change the environmental factors, and focus on the reliefs bearing-capacity. The main interest of Romanian research in the last decades was to observe the relief in close correlation with the other environmental factors; complex landscape investigations date back to the early 20th century. At present, numerous grants offered by outstanding users are being fulfilled in the framework of international environmental research programmes. With a view to a fruitful collaboration among researchers in practical studies around the country, coordinating this working trend devolves on a commission of the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists.

Key-words: *geomorphic processes, environment, human activity*

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